

NEWSLETTER





DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This week I fly to Kuwait to give a lecture at Yarmouk Cultural Centre, Dar al -Athar al -Islamiyyah (DAI), Kuwait. Director and co-founder of DAI, Sheikha Hussah was the first to collaborate with Iamm in an international exhibition "Zarabi Carpets". I am proud to continue this relationship and to share our achievements with her.

In the international arena, Iamm is also developing closer ties with Japan, France, Australia and the UK. Representatives of the museum are travelling to Tokyo and Kyoto to meet their counterparts from the Kyoto National Museum and Tokyo Museum. The number of Japanese visitors to our museum is growing continuously, and it is our pleasure to reach out to this culture-loving audience.

France is another destination that Iamm has long wanted to collaborate with. In line with this, we recently had the honour of a visit by H.E. the President of France to our museum. As part of his mission to Malaysia, the President witnessed the signing of an MOU between our museum and the Guimet Museum of Asian Art in Paris. As there are a number of common interests between our two institutions, Iamm looks forward to further collaborations in the future.

From Australia we are celebrating the return of over 50 artefacts that made a significant contribution to the exhibition "Beyond Words: Calligraphic traditions of Asia" at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. Over the 9 months they were on display, these exquisite calligraphic objects were a vital component in exploring 1000 years of the beauty, power and spirit of calligraphy in Asian art. Also from Sydney, this year we are welcoming an exhibition from The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences. Titled "Faith Fashion, Fusion: Muslim Women's Style in Australia" the exhibition at the Iamm includes historic costumes and accessories that explore the importance of fashion within Islamic civilisation. Fashion has become a magnet for museum visitors around the world. To provide an Islamic viewpoint should make this exhibition especially significant.

Our partnership with the British Museum is going according to schedule and all preparations are on time for the new Albukhary Foundation Gallery of the Islamic World, to be launched by the end of October 2018. This will highlight the British Museum's superb collection of Islamic art in two galleries, while in a smaller gallery space the Iamm will curate an abridged exhibition titled "Arabesque", highlighting the development and spread of this essential motif.

This quarter, Iamm is displaying its bookbinding collection, where gilded and lacquered bindings from the 15th -19th century will be on display for 6 months. We are also eager to judge to our photography competition "A Spiritual Journey: Islamic Culture and Heritage of South East Asia" and award prizes to the winners during the Holy month of Ramadan.

I would like to wish you all Ramadan Mubarak and Happy Eid -ul-Fitri; Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

Syed Mohamad Albukhary

UPCOMING EVENTS 2017

11 APRIL - 30 APRIL 2017



Exhibition:
"The Tatars – Muslims in the Republic of Poland"
Open Space Gallery

Lecture:
'Islam and Relationship with the Muslim lands in Poland: A Short Historical Survey from 900 until current times' by Prof. Dr. Atallah Bogdan Kopanski.
11 April 2017
Education Briefing Area

8 MAY - SEPTEMBER 2017

Exhibition:
"Fann al-Tajlid: The Art of Bookbinding".
Special Gallery 1

Talk:
'Islamic Way of Handling Manuscript' by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mandana Barkeshli
3 June 2017

Workshop:
'Islamic Bookbinding: Understanding Book Structures And Bindings Of Islamic Manuscripts' by Dr. Karin Schepher
24 – 28 July 2017

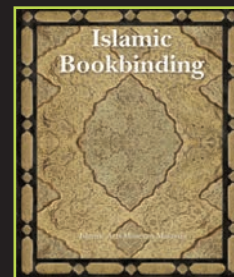
Talk:
'Islamic Bookbinding' by Dr. Karin Schepher
29 July 2017

Workshop :
'French Stitch Bookbinding' by Education Department
26 Aug 2017

Workshop:
'Islamic Illumination' by Azma Salman
8 – 10 Sept 2017

Workshop:
'Bookbinding 101' by Conservation Centre
5 Oct 2017

Workshop:
'Parent & Child Bookbinding' by Education Department
9 Dec 2017



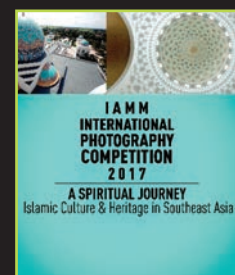
MAY - JUNE 2017



Education:
Tadarus (Al-Qur'an Recitation Program).
Special Gallery 2

JULY - OCTOBER 2017

Exhibition:
"Spiritual Journey: Islamic Culture and Heritage of Southern Asia"
Open Space Gallery



Front cover: Bronze incense burner in the form of a standing lion, Seljuk, 12th-13th century. Collection of Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia.

IMMERSION IN ISLAMIC ARTS PROGRAMME: CSU & IAMM Collaboration

IAMM continues to work in partnership with other organisations to reach a wider audience. From 23rd to 25th January 2017, the first international collaboration between the Charles Sturt University (CSU), Australia and IAMM, supported by the Australian Government's New Colombo Plan scholarship, was realised through the Immersion in Islamic Arts Programme. The inter-university initiative was also joined by other local universities, including Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) and Multimedia University (MMU). Led by Dr Sam Bowker, 12 CSU scholars and 6 UiTM students actively participated in the three-day event.

The programme commenced with presentations delivered by IAMM's respective heads of departments, including Curatorial Affairs, Conservation, Display, Collections & Exhibitions and Education. These gave the participants an overview of the fundamental roles played by each department in making the museum function as a knowledge institution. Later on, the participants were led through all 12 permanent galleries. The display provides an introduction to IAMM and its collections, showing our understanding of the Islamic world in nature and the human achievement that has changed over time. Dr Bowker, who is an expert in Islamic art, also shared his insights with everyone.

The programme provided an opportunity for participants to get up close and personal with the artefacts, enabling them to feel the texture and examine the details of the objects while being assisted by the knowledgeable and enthusiastic IAMM team. To enhance their experience, the participants also had the chance to have a guided tour of the National Mosque and the Heroes' Mausoleum, followed by an exciting calligraphy demonstration at IAMM, where they were taught how to write their names as Arabic inscriptions. The highlight of the programme was on the third day, which was attended by the Australian Deputy High Commissioner, Dr Angela MacDonald. To conclude the event there was an inter-university dialogue delivered by six local and international authorities on Islamic and contemporary art. The success of the programme has paved the way for exciting new projects to develop through



The Australian Deputy High Commissioner, Dr. Angela MacDonald delivering her opening remarks.



The curators and conservators shared their experience in understanding artefacts and how to unearth related information based on the physical characteristics of the artefacts.



A participant from UiTM sharing her research on her selected artefact at the Textile Gallery.

the networks that have been forged. IAMM expects to receive the next batch of CSU scholars by early 2018, also funded by the New Colombo Plan.

'The three days we spent in the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia was the highlight of this extraordinary experience. We all feel very privileged to have received such warm hospitality, generous sharing of expert knowledge, and so much time from your highly skilled team. We learned from objects that cannot be replicated in Australia, met amazing Malaysian scholars, and forged new friendships with our ambitious Malaysian peers.'

Dr Sam Bowker

IAMM is optimistic to have more collaborations with other local and international institutions in future.



The session most enjoyed by the participants is the Calligraphy Demonstration where they learn to write their names in Arabic scriptures.



Participants were briefed about the handling and treatment of artefacts at the Conservation Centre.



IAMM HIGHLIGHTS

"UNVEILING THE UNSEEN (1937 - 1971)": Photographic Exhibition

"Almarhum Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah "Unveiling the Unseen (1937 - 1971)" photography exhibition was opened to public at the Open Space Gallery of the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia on 8th February 2017. This exhibition showcases for the first time recently retrieved negatives from Sultan Ismail's substantial archive that was inherited by his grandson, Raja Ihsan Shah. These are images that have not been seen by many, including Almarhum's own family members. For the first time, the whole collection of the photographer has been highlighted, ranging from exquisitely hand-coloured Zokingake prints from 1948 to later monochrome and coloured photographs. The exhibition has attracted visitors not only from the photography community but from a wide diversity of backgrounds eager to discover Malaya, as it was, through the lens of a king. The exhibition has also received a royal visit by Yang Amat Mulia Paduka Puteri Tunku Hajah Mariam Zaharah Binti Almarhum Sultan Iskandar of Johor.

In conjunction with the exhibition, a special talk session entitled "Defining Modern Photography in the context of Malaya" by YM Raja Ihsan was held and received an impressive turnout. Among the VIP guests was Yang Amat Mulia Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin ibni Tuanku Muhriz, the Founding President of the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS). The



The guests and visitors touring the exhibition gallery during the official opening on 8th February 2017

talk emphasised the early foundation of modern photography in Malaya and its development, steered by the nation's prominent figures in field, including Almarhum Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah. The exhibition and the talk session received coverage from the media and have become a landmark among local photography events.

FROM MALACCA TO MANCHESTER: Curating Islamic Collections Worldwide Conference



Dr. Heba Nayel Barakat (second from left) during the lecture session at the Kanaris Lecture Theatre, Manchester Museum, University of Manchester.

Dr Heba Nayel Barakat, the Head of Curatorial Affairs Department, represented IAMM at the conference held at the Manchester Museum from 23rd to 24th February 2017. The conference 'From Malacca to Manchester: Curating Islamic Collections Worldwide' aimed to bring together the experiences and expertise of museum professionals and scholars around the globe as they discussed the curatorial aspects of museum collections of Islamic art and material culture. At the conference, Dr Barakat delivered a paper entitled 'Representation of Faith in Islamic Galleries: Where did we go wrong?'. In her lecture, she addressed the multifaceted approaches made by museum authorities in defining 'faith', which is embedded in Islamic artefacts in the museums.

22ND CULTURAL SEASON OF DAR AL-ATHAR AL-ISLAMIYYAH: A lecture from the IAMM Director



Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah | The al-Sabah Collection

The IAMM Director, Syed Mohammad Albukhary will deliver a special lecture in conjunction with 22nd Cultural Season of Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah (DAI), Kuwait. The lecture, which is scheduled on 27th March 2017 at the Yarmouk Cultural Centre will share with the audiences stories behind the establishment of the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia; its foundation, mission and vision. The lecture "The emergence of an Islamic Institution in Malaysia" hopes could become an eye-opener for Islamic arts institutions and enthusiasts about the will of the IAMM to emerge as one of the important institution of Islamic arts in Southeast Asian region.

MUSEUM WITH NO FRONTIERS: *Discover the IAMM collection online*

IAMM is honoured to be the pioneer Asian museum to contribute in the expanding "Discover Islamic Art" collection as a partner in the largest online museum database, Museum With No Frontiers (MWNF). Along with other distinguished museums including the British Museum, London; Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilisation, United Arab Emirates; and the National Archaeological Museum, Madrid to name a few. MWNF is an international non-profit organisation founded by Eva Schubert in 1995. It affords partners to interact productively and supply a multinational presentation of history, art and culture without physically moving the artefacts but rather presented in a simulated environment. The museums function to provide contextualisation and act as the gateway to an authentic museum with no frontiers experience. IAMM presented its 50 finest artefacts that represent the museum in the Discover Islamic Art section that depicts the heritage of Islam not only in southern Mediterranean countries and Europe but also in the Southeast Asian region. More details on the virtual museums and virtual exhibitions may be explored at <http://www.discoverislamicart.org/>.



IAMM INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2017

Since its launch early this year, the first IAMM International Photography Competition has attracted numerous submissions from amateurs as well as professional photographers around the globe. Based on the theme "A Spiritual Journey: Islamic Culture & Heritage in Southeast Asia, the competition challenge the participants to produce their visual masterpieces; photography shots that could depict the culture and heritage of 230 million Muslims in the Southeast Asian region.

To date, the organizer has gathered a collection of stunning photographs which demonstrate creative interpretation of the theme as well as mastery of photography skills of the participants. The collection has resulted in a series of photography that truly enlivens the spirit of Islamic culture and heritage in Southeast Asia.

To allow more competitive entries, IAMM as decided to extend the end of submission date to 31st May 2017. All participants stand a chance to be exhibited in IAMMs' 2017 photo exhibition, receive a share of MYR 10,000 in cash prizes and gain digital and print exposure. For more information on the competition, please visit our website at www.iamm.org.my/spiritualjourney/



CSU ARABIC CALLIGRAPHY DEMONSTRATION & VISIT TO NATIONAL MOSQUE

On 23rd January, a special event dedicated to writing Arabic calligraphy was held for students from the Charles Sturt University of Australia during their recent visit for the Immersion in Islamic Arts programme. Haji Moonair Nazir, a master calligrapher from the National Islamic Calligraphy Association, was invited to demonstrate the beauty of Arabic calligraphy and guide participants in writing it themselves. This was followed by a visit to the National Mosque and a tour of the Heroes' Mausoleum.

Students from the Charles Sturt University of Australia during their visit to National Mosque



TALK BY YM RAJA IHSAN: "Defining Modern Photography in the context of Malaya"



YM Raja Ihsan during the lecture at the Education Briefing Area, IAMM

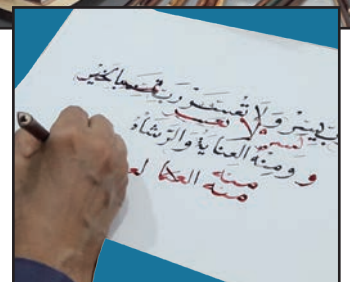
In conjunction with the 'Almarhum Sultan Ismail: Unveiling the Unseen (1929-1971) Photography Exhibition', a special talk entitled 'Defining Modern Photography in the Context of Malaya' was held at IAMM's Briefing Hall on 8th February. The talk, which was delivered by YM Raja Ihsan, discussed the photographs taken by Almarhum Sultan Ismail and his influence on local modern photography. IAMM was fortunate to receive a courtesy visit from Yang Amat Mulia Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin ibni Tuanku Muhriz of Negeri Sembilan and the royal family members. The talk met with an overwhelming reception.

ARABIC CALLIGRAPHY WITH CITI J. YOUSOFF

Citi J. Youssoff is a jewel in the field of Arabic calligraphy. Leading the small number of female calligraphers, she is a master with exclusive certification (ijaza) to Hasan Celebi. Citi. J. Yousoff has been active in teaching Arabic calligraphy to students and professionals at IAMM. For those who are interested in joining the class, please send your inquiry to education@iamm.org.my.



Citi J. Youssoff was demonstrating the art of arabic calligraphy during one of her class session





IAMM
EDUCATION

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY 2017



On 18th May annually, International Museum Day (IMD) is celebrated by museums worldwide. The objective of this special occasion is to raise public awareness of the roles of museums in addition to bringing people closer to museums. A theme is assigned annually and for this year it is 'Museums and contested histories: Saying the unspeakable in museums'. Throughout the years, IAMM has participated actively in IMD. A one-day celebration that includes every department in this museum is held at the Inverted Dome Pavilion.

Each department will come up with new interesting and creative activities related to its niche every year. IAMM also invites external institutions, artists and performers to exhibit and perform. For those who prefer to spend their museum day in our galleries, they can find our docent located in the gallery to listen to their explanation on history related to respective gallery. However, you must compete with budding historians from various schools and universities as their eagerness often occupies the space.

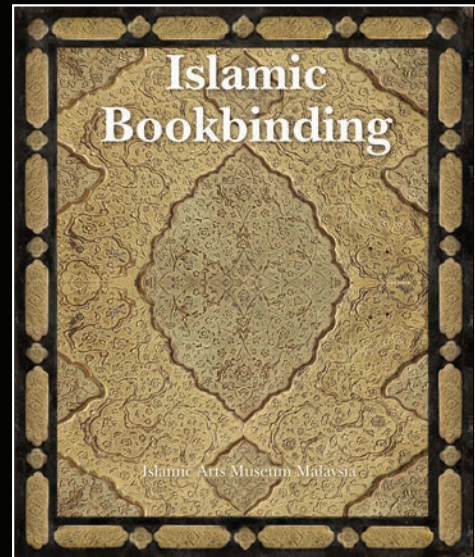
For 2017, IAMM would like you to join us in this festive celebration, as we will assemble various handmade children's craft into an enormous art installation which is a part of our Imagination and Inspiration project. We will also bring you closer to the history and treasure of Muslim arts through activities with our curators and conservators. We will also invite an award winning illustrator, which will deliver a special storytelling session for children. There will also be watercolour art and photography workshop, Malay traditional games competition and Be Inspired Modular Programmes just to name a few.



IAMM PUBLICATION

ISLAMIC BOOKBINDING

The evolution and advancement of the book culture were not only scholarly, but also in the book production particularly in the art of bookbinding. The Islamic Bookbinding showcases over 70 manuscript covers that revolve around materials such as leather, lacquer and textile. Moreover, the catalogue take a comprehensive look into the bookmaking technique by showing the process itself; from the stitching of the folios to the preparation and ornamentation of the cover until the two parts are attached and perfectly bound. Other parts of the book such as the doublures, the text block as well as the flap, a unit that is unique to the Islamic bookbinding, are also highlighted in the catalogue. The Islamic book production was concentrated in the royal ateliers thus reflecting the finest work of the craftsmen under the patronage of a ruler. The catalogue thus explores the art of bookbinding from around the Islamic World, spanning geographically from Morocco and moving eastward to the Malay World and China. The practices and trends of Islamic Dynasties such as the Mamluk, Ottoman, Safavid and Qajar are highlighted through their decorative repertoire that also embraces the three main elements of Islamic art: geometrical pattern, vegetal form and calligraphy.



MUSEUM SHOP



COFFEE SET COLLECTION.

New item available for sale at Museum Shop. Turkey coffee set of 6 pieces decorated with Islamic designs.

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